

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

*Map Case
Reserve
F/65 Ma*

1929

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST ARIZONA

LIBRARY OF THE
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS
AUG 25 1930
EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ MAY 8 - 1953 ★



Forest capital protected

F-193608

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
2a SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT
Region

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST ARIZONA

THE FOREST

The Sitgreaves National Forest is located in east central Arizona along the southern edge of what is geologically known as the Colorado Plateau, and was named in honor of Capt. L. Sitgreaves, a United States topographical engineer, who headed a scientific expedition through this region in the early fifties.

Beginning at a point 9 miles east of the Navajo-Apache County line, the forest extends in a westerly direction for 80 miles along the Mogollon Rim and the Colorado-Salt River Divide. Practically all of the drainage is toward the north and tributary to the Little Colorado River, and lies within altitudinal limits varying from about 6,000 to 8,500 feet.

The forest has a net area of 794,424 acres, of which 451,044 acres are classed as timber land. It bears a stand of 4,257,775,000 board feet of timber, practically all of which is western yellow pine, the most important saw timber tree in the southwest. The timbered area on this forest forms a large part of a greater area of timber extending in an almost unbroken belt of varying width from the mountains of southern Utah across Arizona and into New Mexico, almost to the Rio Grande Valley.

Twenty-five per cent of the receipts from the sale or use of national forest timber, forage, water, and recreational resources is returned to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forests are located for schools and roads, and an additional 10 per cent is expended by the Forest Service for roads and trails. Burned forests pay no dividends.

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

TIMBER RESOURCES

Logging operations on a big scale started on this forest only about 10 years ago, at the time of building a sawmill at McNary (formerly Cooley), Ariz. At the present time the mill at McNary, which is the largest sawmilling plant in the Southwest, is cutting timber from the Sitgreaves and Apache National Forests, and the White Mountain-Apache Indian Reservation, at the rate of about a hundred million feet per year. Another sawmill has recently started operation at the town of Standard on the Sitgreaves Forest near Pinedale. These two mills have an annual capacity of approximately 130,000,000 feet, only a part of which is supplied from the Sitgreaves Forest. These mills and the woods operations which support them furnish employment to hundreds of men, and the manufacturing establishments are important assets to the local communities and to the State of Arizona.



Future Crop Well on the Way

F-195723

SITGREAves NATIONAL FOREST

The highest use of the timber land within the forest is for the production of successive crops of timber. As long as this land is producing timber it will contribute its share to community wealth and to the upkeep of the local government through taxes. In order that these benefits may be permanent it is essential that the cutting and growing of timber be handled in such a way as to lead to stabilization and to continuous timber operations. This is possible only if the land is kept at its highest producing state and the supply of virgin timber harvested at a rate that will insure a supply of timber until the cut over area again carries sufficient timber for economic logging operations.



Harvesting the Crop on a Sustained-Yield Basis

F-190693

Continuity and consistency in the handling of the timber resources on the forest are insured by written plans for timber management. The timber to be removed from the forest during the

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

next 75 years is estimated at 2,625,000,000 feet, board measure. At the end of that period the previously cut over timber land will again be ready for cutting. Under the management plan now in force on the forest it is computed that there can be removed from the forest approximately 35 million board feet annually.

Arizona consumes more timber annually than is cut within the State and is obliged to import from other timber producing regions. This imported material carries a freight charge of over \$15.00 per thousand feet as against a freight charge on the locally cut material of less than \$5.00 per thousand feet. It is, therefore, desirable to grow as much timber locally as is possible in order that the State



Logs Going to Market

F-175221

may benefit from the growing and harvesting of this crop on the land within the State that is best suited to this purpose. Handled

Forests mean health and wealth—protect them from fire

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

under forestry methods, this large area of producing timber land is of enormous economic value to the community and the State.

In addition to the saw timber land, there are extensive areas of woodland growth which carry about 1,500,000 cords of pinon, juniper, and oak fire wood and post material. This woodland stand is important in the community life of the settlements, since almost the entire supply of such material is secured from the forest.

GRAZING RESOURCES

The production of livestock is an important industry of the Southwest and the Sitgreaves National Forest contributes its share of grazing. Many communities on the forest are almost entirely



Fifty-five Thousand Sheep Use the Ranges of the Sitgreaves National Forest

F-233500

dependent for their livelihood upon the revenue derived from livestock grazed within the forest boundaries. At present there are about 8,000 head of cattle and horses and 55,000 head of sheep being grazed on the forest. In order that the grazing resources may be

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

placed on a sound basis, an intensive survey of them has been made for use in making range management plans for each natural grazing unit.

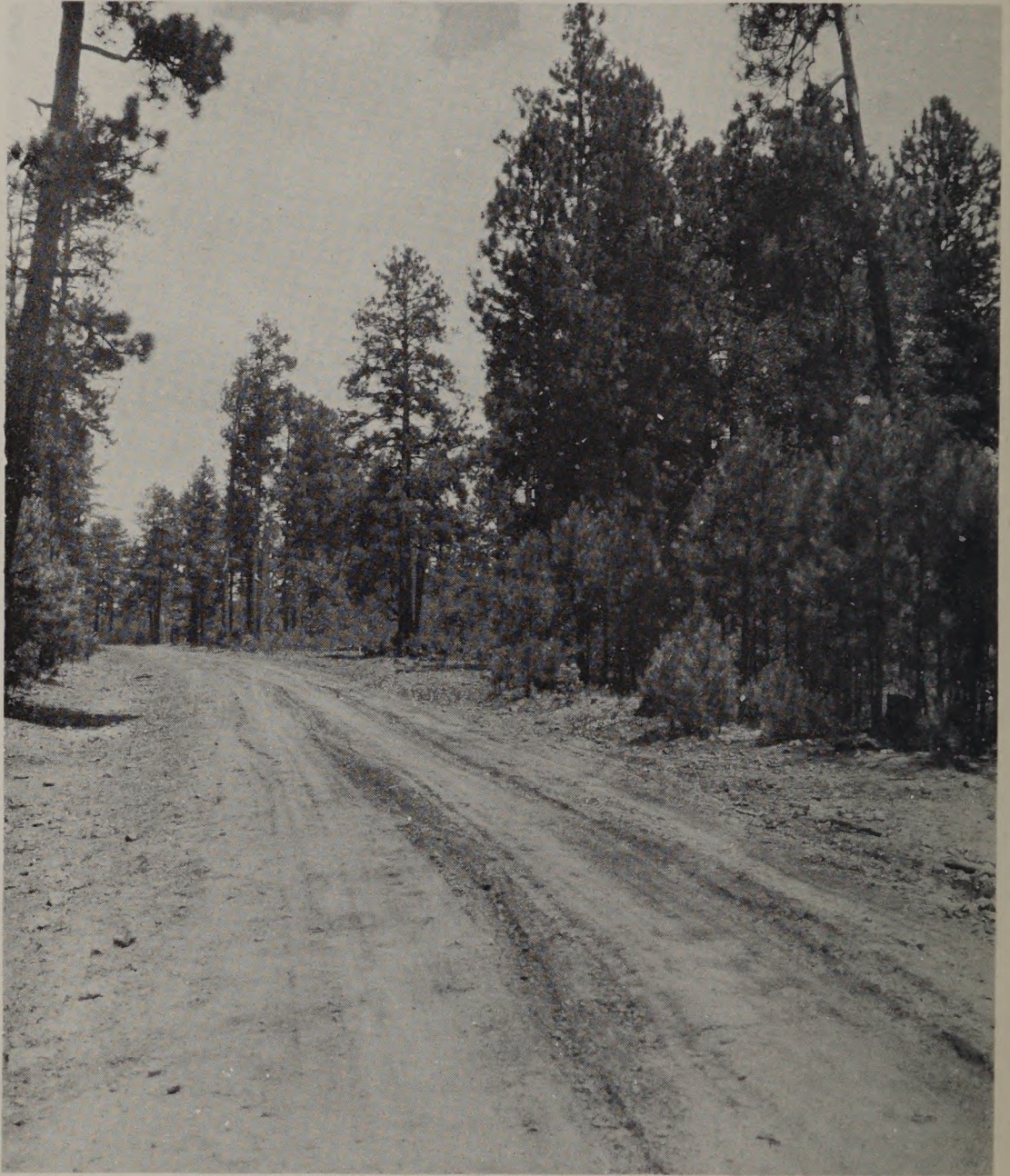
The principal objects of these plans are to improve the forage and other forest conditions on areas that have suffered from past abuse, to maintain the ranges, forests, and watersheds in good condition, and to harvest the forage crop annually in such a way that it will contribute to the permanent operation of a profitable livestock business. These plans show for each range unit whether it is better suited to sheep or to cattle grazing, the number of such stock for which sufficient forage will be provided each year, the season during which the forage can best be utilized, and the methods of handling the stock on the range. They also show what range improvements are necessary to obtain the highest possible use of the native feed consistent with the permanent maintenance of the forage crop and the proper safeguarding of other interrelated resources and interests. The construction and maintenance of range improvements (principally water developments and fences), has gone a long way toward stabilizing the livestock industry and insuring profits from the business.

OTHER RESOURCES

The forest not only produces a continuous supply of timber and forage for livestock but also provides watershed protection, recreational opportunities, raw material for industries which support a number of towns, homes for a considerable number of settlers, and protection for wild life. The entire forest is open to use and occupancy under the regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture, and legitimate use and occupancy are encouraged.

Be a real sportsman. Help enforce the game laws

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST



A Roadway Through the Forest

F-103578

REVENUE TO THE STATE

Twenty-five per cent of the net revenues received from the various activities on the forest goes to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located, for the benefit of schools and roads. In 1928 this amounted to \$22,550. An additional 10 per cent of the net receipts is expended by the Forest Service on National Forest roads.

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST WILD LIFE

The Sitgreaves National Forest furnishes no small amount of recreation in the form of hunting, many hunters coming from other States and all parts of Arizona. Deer, turkey, and squirrels are the principal game animals for which hunting is allowed; occasionally bear and lion are also found.



A Late Hunting Party Nearly Snowed in

F-196716

The forest is the home of a herd of about 1,000 elk, the natural increase of a band of 83 head, shipped from the Yellowstone region and turned loose on the Chevalon Ranger District in 1913. Elk are now scattered over the entire western portion of the forest. A few bands of pronghorn antelope, common to this region in the early eighties, have also taken refuge on the forest and are making a normal increase.

More forage, more timber, better soil, result from fire control

Don't burn the woods

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Historically the region in which the Sitgreaves National Forest is located is of great interest, and in the settlement and development of the Southwest it has passed through varied and unusual phases. There are everywhere evidences of a prehistoric race. Ruins of their pueblos, cliff dwellings, and irrigation systems are still found, and broken pottery and arrow points are scattered over the entire region. During the early sixties the Mormons immigrated into this region from Utah and established homes for themselves under the most trying frontier conditions. Over this territory the fierce and warlike Apache Indians continually harrassed the settlers and immigrants until the Indians were finally subjugated and confined to reservations. The "Pleasant Valley War," one of the most sensational range wars in the history of the early West involving the cattle and sheep factions, occurred partly on the present Sitgreaves Forest. The old Military Road used by the Army in freighting supplies from Santa Fe to Fort Apache on the White Mountain-Apache Indian Reservation and Camp Verde on the Prescott Forest, traverses almost the entire length of the forest and in many places follows along the brink of the Great Fault, or Mogollon Rim. This Rim breaks abruptly to the south in many places, in sheer drops of from 500 to 1,000 feet.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Sitgreaves National Forest as a whole is under the direction of a forest supervisor, two assistants, and two clerks, with headquarters in Holbrook. It is divided into four ranger districts of over 200,000 acres each, with a forest ranger in charge domiciled on each district. During the late spring and early summer months when the forest litter, or ground cover, becomes very dry and is exceedingly inflammable extra fire guards and look-outs are employed to assist the regular force of forest rangers in protecting the forest from fires. The lookout men are stationed at

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

towers built on high points which afford a clear view of the surrounding country. It is the duty of the lookout to keep a careful



Promontory Tower

F-195893

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

watch for fires and report them immediately. Promontory Tower, located on the "Rim" of the Colorado Plateau and on the Chevalon Ranger District, is 110 feet high and is believed to be the highest lookout tower located on any National Forest in the United States. The towers are connected by telephone with the district ranger's headquarters so that when a fire is sighted it may be reported at once and steps taken to control it.



Heber Ranger Station

F-108893

THE RANGER

The district ranger is the key man in the administration of his district. His duties are numerous and varied. Besides protecting the forest from fire, he looks after the grazing of sheep, cattle, and horses, many forms of use and occupancy, the supervision of the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, telephone lines, guard cabins, lookout towers, and fences, and marks and scales timber, inspects areas after timber cutting operations, and lays out summer home sites. These are only a few of his numerous duties and his work necessarily takes him into all parts of his district. He is, therefore, in a position to give accurate information of many kinds.

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

SITGREAVES FOREST DIRECTORY

Forest Supervisor, Holbrook, Ariz.

Chevalon Ranger District, Winslow, Ariz.

Heber Ranger District, Heber, Ariz.

Lakeside Ranger District, Lakeside, Ariz.

Pinedale Park Ranger District, Pinedale, Ariz.

FOREST FIRES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Fire is by far the most dangerous and destructive agency to forest resources. Within a very short period it can burn over a large area leaving in its wake a black and smoldering ruin, which only a short while before was a green luxuriant growth of timber, shrubs, and grass. In the past some fires were started by lightning,



Tree Growth of a Century May Be Destroyed in a Few Hours by Fire

F-193972

Every forest fire means less water for stream flow and domestic use
Help keep the forests clean and green

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

but the majority of the large forest fires were caused through the carelessness of man—by dropping lighted matches, or burning tobacco, on the highly inflammable litter covering the forest floor, or by leaving burning camp fires. Such fires are preventable since man's carelessness or intentional disregard of public property and safety is responsible for their origin.



The Unsafe and Safe Ways to Build a Camp Fire

F-185853, 185857

Lighted matches, cigar and cigarette stubs should be pinched out before dropping and pipe heels deposited in safe places devoid of inflammable material. Also, before building a camp fire all inflam-

SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

mable material should be cleared away for a radius of four or five feet from the spot where the fire is to be built. A pit should then be excavated about 18 inches long, 12 inches wide, and about 8 or 10 inches deep. The fire can easily be built in and confined to this pit, and there is very little likelihood of wind throwing sparks into the surrounding litter. When the camp is to be left unattended, if only for a short time, the fire should be completely buried with fresh earth free from any inflammable material, or thoroughly extinguished with water.

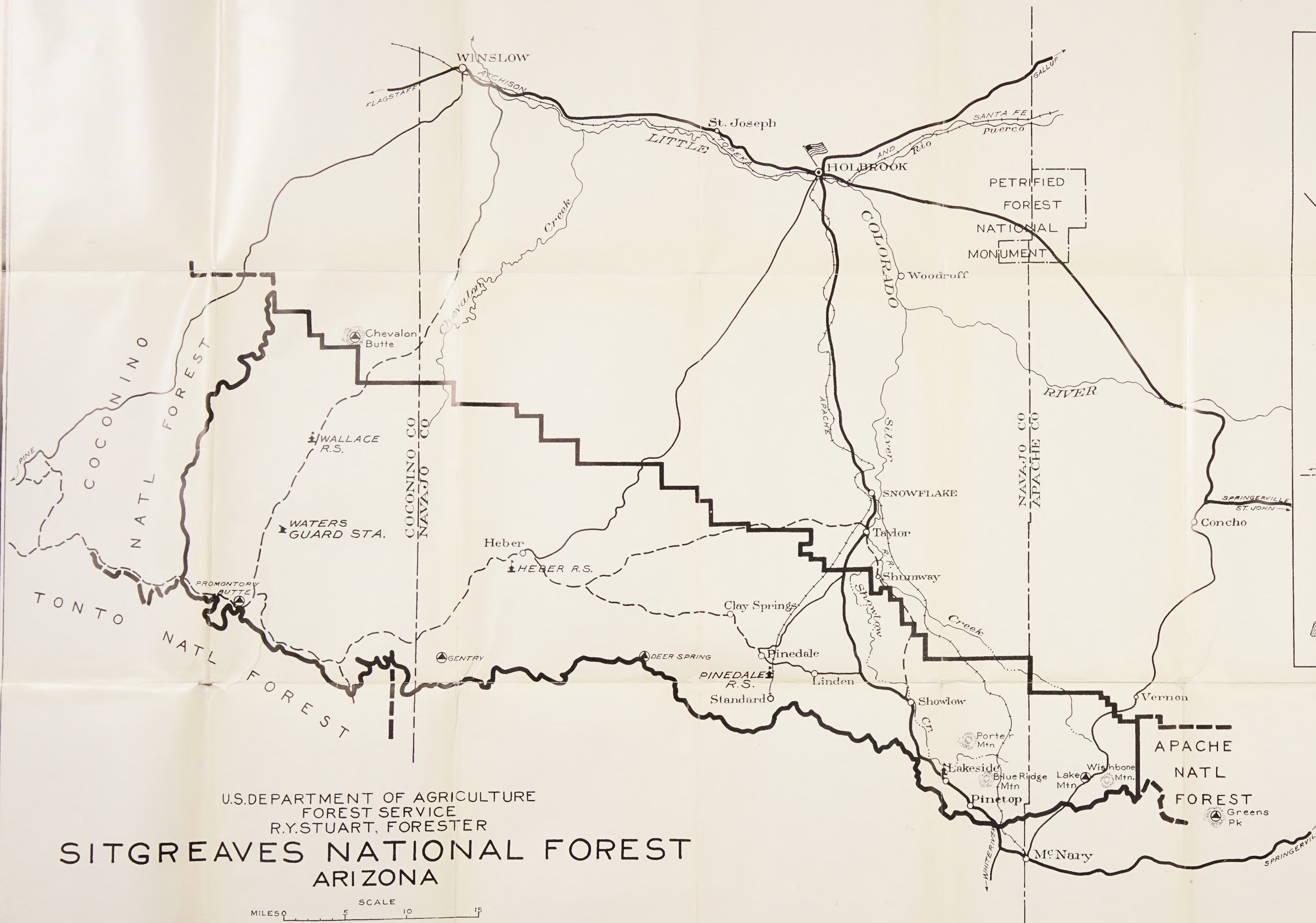
By practicing these simple safeguards many destructive fires can be avoided and the forests can be kept green and beautiful for the public to enjoy year after year. In case a fire is accidentally started it can usually be whipped out easily with a pine branch, or controlled while small by throwing fresh earth on the blaze with a shovel. However, if the fire becomes too large to be handled, notify the local ranger immediately in order that adequate means may be taken to suppress the fire. The national forests are public property and any such service rendered in their protection is a public duty and a public benefit. Fires seen burning in the forest by passersby should be extinguished if small and then reported to the nearest forest officer for record purposes. If fires are too large to handle or tools for their suppression are not available they should be reported at once.

POINTS OF INTEREST ON OR NEAR THE SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

THE MOGOLLON RIM OR GREAT FAULT

This great Rim lies along the major portion of the southern boundary of the Sitgreaves National Forest and extends for more than 100 miles in a general east and west direction. The country breaks very rapidly to the south, in many places with a sheer drop of several hundred feet. The old Military Road, which is now





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
R.Y. STUART, FORESTER
SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST
ARIZONA

SCALE
MILES 0 5 10 15

- LEGEND**
- FOREST BOUNDARY
 - ADJACENT FOREST BOUNDARY
 - GOOD ROAD
 - SECONDARY ROAD
 - THIRD CLASS ROAD (Make local inquiry)
 - RANGER STATION
 - FIRE LOOKOUT
 - PERMANENT WATER
 - RAILROAD
 - SUPERVISORS HEADQUARTERS



KEY MAP

SCALE
Miles 0 10 20 30 40 50

